



Centers of Excellence Program Overview

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March 2005

Centers of Excellence Background

- The FAA Administrator has the authority to make financial grants to institutions of higher education to establish and operate regional centers of air transportation excellence.
- This authority was provided in 1990 through 49 USC Section 44513.
- Centers of Excellence established by Congress are subject to legislative criteria.

Legislative Intentions vs. COE Program Outcomes

- Authorized to form Centers of Excellence
 - Computational Modeling of Aircraft Structures
 - Airport Technology
 - Operations Research
 - Airworthiness Assurance
 - General Aviation
 - Aircraft Noise & Aviation Emissions Mitigation
 - Advanced Materials
 - Airliner Cabin Environment

Legislative Intentions vs. COE Program Outcomes

- Long-term partnerships with universities
 - Centers operate for a minimum of three years, with two additional three-year extensions, and one one-year extension.
- Serve as a primary external resource to augment the FAA's internal capabilities
 - Constrained federal budgets
 - Matching funds

Legislative Intentions vs. COE Program Outcomes

- Facilitate professional exchange opportunities and related research, education, and training activities.
 - Supported over 850 graduate students
 - Centers have multiple university/organizational partners.
 - Team members work in concert to exchange research, education, and training information to improve each other's academic curriculum and research capabilities.

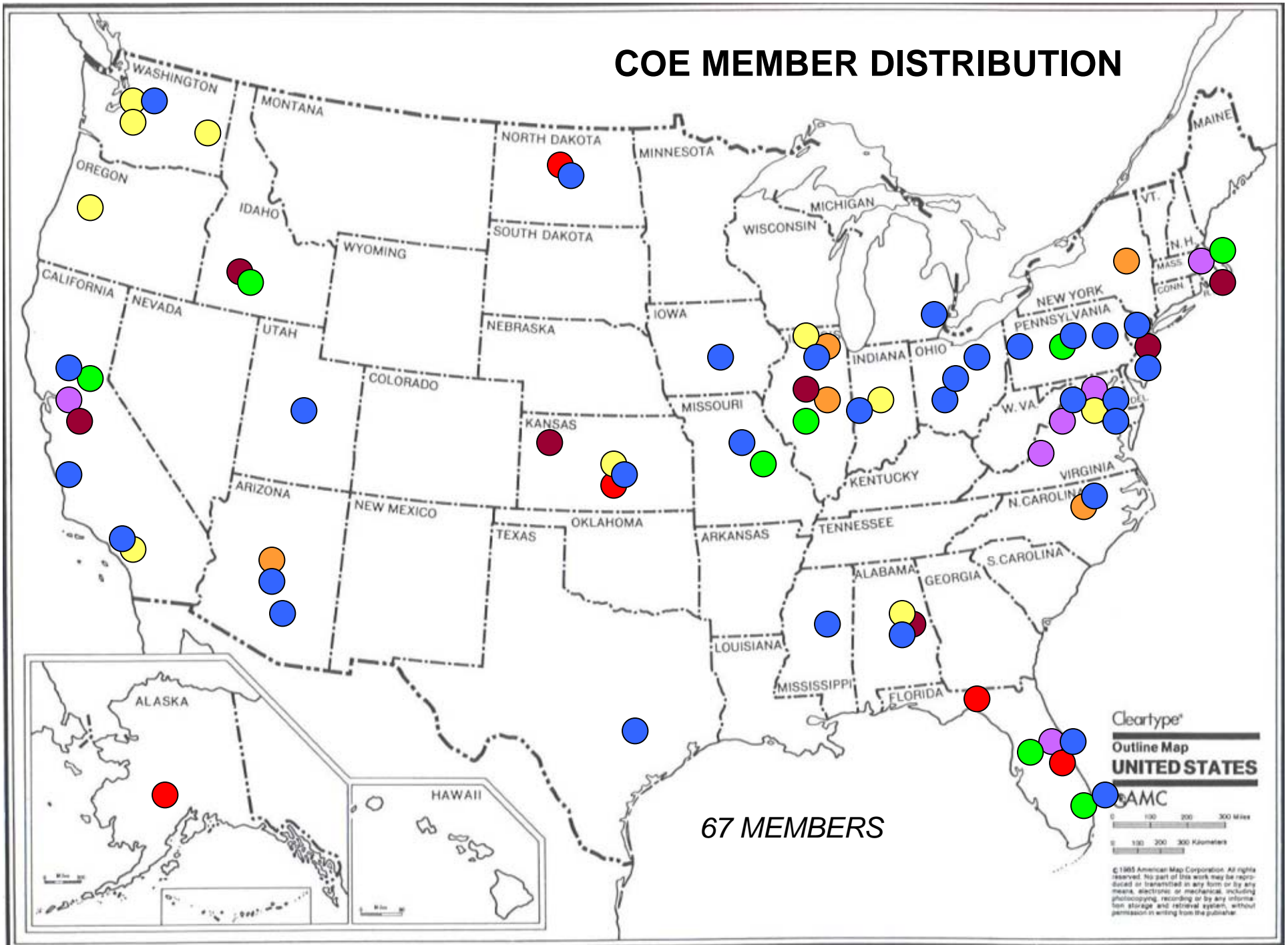
Legislative Intentions vs. COE Program Outcomes

- Conduct research in specific areas:
 - airspace and airport planning and design (Airport Technology)
 - airport capacity enhancement techniques (NEXTOR)
 - human performance in the air transportation environment (NEXTOR, Cabin Environ, GA)
 - aviation safety (AACE, Airport Technology, GA, Advanced Materials, NEXTOR, Cabin Environ)
 - aviation security (Cabin Environ, NEXTOR, GA)
 - supply of trained air transportation person including pilots and mechanics (GA, Materials)

Legislative Intentions vs. COE Program Outcomes

- Interpret, publish, and disseminate research results.
 - Published over 2,000 articles, reports, and doctoral theses.
 - Technical reviews open to all COE members.
- Geographically distributed across the US.
 - Participation from 67 universities, and over 200 industry, state, and professional organizations.
 - Members are located in 31 of the 50 States.

COE MEMBER DISTRIBUTION



COE Overview Summary

- Eight Centers established with long-term agreements
- Research focused on areas identified by the authorization legislation.
- 67 universities in 31 States
- 200+ industry, state, professional organizations.
- Supported over 850 graduate students.
- 2,000+ articles, reports, and doctoral theses.
- Project work responds to aviation issues that affect the general public.
- Successful Implementation of Program Intentions



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